DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 328 334 JC 910 145

AUTHOR Einspruch, Eric
TITLE CLAST Pass Rates after One Year for Fall Term 1989 First-Time Examinees at Miami-Dade Community College. Research Report No. 90-22R.
INSTITUTION Miami-Dade Community Coll., Fla. Office of Institutional Research.
PUB DATE Oct 90
NOTE 23p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Achievement Tests; Basic Skills; Community Colleges; Comparative Analysis; Evaluation Criteria; *Performance Factors; Predictive Validity; Standardized Tests; *Testing Problems; *Test Results; Test Score Decline; Two Year Colleges; *Two Year College Students
IDENTIFIERS Miami Dade Community College FL

ABSTRACT

Determining the overall pass rates on the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) for a given cohort of students involves an analysis of both the first-time examinee performance and subsequent pass rates of students who failed the test and retook it at a later date. Two increases in the scores required to pass the CLAST in 1986 and 1989 have complicated the process of determining the actual pass rates for any given cohort of students and of predicting future pass rates. A study was conducted at Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC) to examine the impact of increased cut-off scores on eventual pass rates, analyze the percentage of students failing any of the CLAST subtests following the 1989 raise in pass scores, determine the effectiveness of the models used to predict pass rates after the cut-off scores had been raised, and predict what the pass rates will be a year after the third raise in cut-off scores goes into effect in fall 1991. Study findings included the following: (1) 41.3% of the 2,713 first-time examinees in 1989 passed all four subtests on their first attempt, and another 15.3% passed when they retook the CLAST on one of the following two administrations, bringing the total pass rate for the cohort to 56.6%; (2) 49.3% of the examinees who initially failed one subtest passed all four subtests within the next two test administrations, as compared to only 19.6% of those who initially failed two subtests; (3) higher passing scores have led to an increase in the proportion of examinees initially failing multiple subtests; and (4) pass rates for the fall 1989 examinees very closely approximated the predictions previously made. (GFW)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED328334

CLAST PASS RATES AFTER ONE YEAR FOR FALL TERM 1989 FIRST-TIME EXAMINEES AT MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Research Report No. 90-22R

October 1990

IR Miami-Dade Community College District Administration

Institutional Research

IC 910 145

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

E. Einspruch

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

Miami-Dade Community College

MIAMI-DADE IS AN EQUAL ACCESS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP. 4/88

CLAST PASS RATES AFTER ONE YEAR FOR FALL TERM 1989 FIRST-TIME EXAMINEES AT MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Research Report No. 90-22R

October 1990

Eric Einspruch

Research Associate, Sr.

Miami-Dade Community College

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

John Losak, Dean

Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Highlights	2
Method	3
Results and Discussion	4
CLAST Performance For Fall Term 1989	4
CLAST Performance After One Year	5
Impact of the Number of Subtests Initially Failed on Eventual Retake Performance	7
Accuracy of Earlier Predictions of Eventual Pass Rates for Fall Term 1989 Examinees	8
Predicted CLAST Performance Given 1991 Passing Scores	9
Conclusion	10
References	16
Appendix	17-18

List of Tables

Table		
1	Performance of Fall Term 1989 First-Time A.A. Examinees After Two More Administrations of the CLAST Based on 1989 Passing Scores	12
2	Current CLAST Status and Subtests Initially Failed Fall Term 1989 First-Time CLAST Examinees 1989 Passing Scores	13-14
3	Performance of Fall Term 1989 First-Time A.A. Examinees After Two More Administrations of the CLAST Based on 1991 Passing Scores	15

CLAST Pass Rates After One Year for
Fall Term 1989 First-Time Examinees at
Miami-Dade Community College

Introduction

The issue of CLAST retake performance has been a topic of debate for several years. It is well established that first-time examinee pass rates are lower than eventual pass rates, since many more students retake and ultimately pass the examination. This elevates the pass rate for any particular cohort of students. However, the effect of increased passing scores on eventual pass rates has been a matter of debate and prediction.

The purpose of this report was fourfold. First, the report examined the impact of increased passing scores in 1986 and 1989 on the eventual pass rate. The pass rate after one year for Fall Term 1989 first-time examinees was compared to the pass rate after one year for Fall Term 1986 and Fall Term 1984 first-time examinees. This comparison illustrates the effect of the increased passing scores that occurred in 1986 and 1989. This is the first analysis of actual longitudinal M-DCC student performance under the "modified" 1989 passing scores. In addition, the analysis distinguished between all first-time examinees, including students who had not completed required coursework, and the subset of those who had completed required coursework. This definition is of importance to the institution, as college policies are being recommended that will affect curriculum requirements. Second, an analysis was made of the percentage of students failing zero, one, two, three or four subtests under the "modified" 1989 passing scores. The impact of the number of subtests failed on the eventual pass rate was then considered. Third, actual Fall Term 1989 pass rates after one year were compared to pass rates predicted in earlier debates, checking the accuracy of the earlier predictions. Finally, predictions were made about pass rates after one year under the higher passing scores scheduled to go into effect in Fall Term 1991.

Highlights

°During the Fall Term 1989 administration, 2,713 A.A. examinees wrote the CLAST for the first time. Of these 2,713, 41.3% passed all four subtests on their first attempt, and another 15.3% passed upon retake within the following two administrations. Thus, the eventual pass rate for the total group of examinees was 56.6%. This compares to an 89% pass rate after one year for Fall Term 1986 examinees, and an 86% pass rate after one year for Fall Term 1984 examinees.

°During the Fall Term 1989 administration, 760 A.A. first-time examinees had earned at least 18 college credits and had passed ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113 with a grade of "C" or better. Of these 760, 62.5% passed on their first attempt, and another 16.5% passed upon retake within the following two administrations. Thus, the eventual pass rate for this group of examinees was 79.0%.

°Higher passing scores have led to an increase in the proportion of examinees initially failing multiple subtests, and retake performance continues to be related to the number of subtests initially failed. Of the total group of examinees, 49.3% of those who initially failed one subtest had passed all four subtests within the next two administrations, compared to 19.6% of those who had initially failed two subtests. Of those examinees who had passed the required courses, 57.6% of those who initially failed one subtest had passed all four subtests within the next two administrations, compared to 31.4% of those who had initially failed two subtests.

°The Fall Term 1989 examinees performed very closely to the "best case" prediction made by Belcher (1989). Had the Fall Term 1989 examinees been held to the proposed 1991 passing scores, the number of examinees failing zero through four subtests would have been very close to that predicted by Losak and Einspruch (1989).

°Had the Fall Term 1989 examinees been held to the proposed 1991 passing scores, it was estimated that the eventual pass rate for the entire group would have been between 29% and 43%, and the eventual pass rate for those who had passed the required courses would have been between 44% and 65%. This is a reasonable prediction for students who will write under the 1991 passing scores, assuming no changes in students performance.

Method

Student records were obtained from the M-DCC CLAST research file (BSA15). First-time examinees who declared they were seeking an A.A. degree and who wrote the CLAST during the Fall Term 1989 administration were selected. First time scores, highest scores earned, number of times the CLAST was written, number of college credits earned, and grades in ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113 were obtained from this file. These students could have written the CLAST a total of three times (during October, 1989; March, 1990; and June, 1990). First-time and highest pass rates under 1989 and 1991 passing scores were computed from these scores. Students were then divided into four groups: a) passed on the first attempt, b) retook the CLAST and had now passed all four subtests, c) retook the CLAST and had not yet passed all four subtests, and d) did not retake the CLAST. A crosstabulation was then conducted, with the combinations of subtests originally failed in the rows and the current CLAST status (the four groups just defined) in the columns. This crosstabulation was carried out four times based on the current 1989 passing scores: a) for all examinees, b) for all examinees who had earned at least 18 college credits, c) for examinees who had earned at least 18 college credits and who had passed ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113 with a grade of "C" or better, and d) for examinees who had earned at least 18 college credits but had not taken or passed the above courses.

The CLAST research file contains records only for students who wrote the CLAST at M-DCC or who requested that their scores be sent to M-DCC. It does not contain records for M-DCC students who wrote (or retook) the CLAST at other institutions unless those students requested that their scores be sent here. Therefore, it is possible that findings based on the CLAST research file may slightly underestimate the eventual pass rates for M-DCC examinees. This is why Belcher (1986) surveyed the cohort she was following and Einspruch (1988) perused the state on-line score system when following his cohort. However, in both studies the additional effort yielded eventual pass rates only slightly higher than those determined using the M-DCC records; in other words, the M-DCC records may be considered virtually complete. In light of this history, and given the large number of

students writing (and failing) the CLAST during Fall Term 1989, only M-DCC records were used in the present study.

Results and Discussion

CLAST Performance For Fall Term 1989

During the Fall Term 1989 CLAST administration, 2,713 Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree-seeking students at Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC) wrote the CLAST for the first time. This represented a large increase in number over previous Fall Term administrations, and was due to changes in State rule (effective March, 1988) allowing students to write the CLAST at any point during their matriculation, rather than only after they were otherwise eligible to graduate.[1] Some students took advantage of this change in rule in order to meet the CLAST requirement early, while others used the opportunity to lock in current passing scores. The passing scores were originally scheduled to be implemented in three steps, beginning in 1984 and increasing in 1986 and 1989. In light of students being unable to meet performance expectations, "modified" 1989 passing scores were put into effect in 1989, and the "original" 1989 passing scores, which were delayed until 1990, are now scheduled to go into effect in 1991. The scheduled cutscores, therefore, are as follows:

Year	Reading	English Language Skills	Mathematics	Essay
1986	270	270	275	4
1989	295	295	285	4
1991	295	295	295	5

Of the 2,713 examinees who wrote during the Fall Term 1989 administration, 41.3% passed the CLAST, and 58.7% failed the CLAST (defined as passing three or fewer subtests). Another way of looking at the performance

[1] As of Fall, 1990, students are required to have earned at least 18 college-level credits before writing the CLAST.

of these students is to consider that of the 2,713 examinees, 760 (28%) had passed the required courses ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113 with a grade of "C" or better. Of these 760, 62.5% passed the exam, and 37.5% failed the exam.

CLAST Performance After One Year.

Table 1 shows that 2,713 first-time A.A. examinees wrote the CLAST during Fall Term 1989. Of these 2,713, 41.3% passed all four parts on their first attempt, and another 15.3% passed within the following two administrations, based on 1989 passing scores. Thus, the eventual pass rate after one year for the total group of examinees was 56.6%. One-fourth of these students had not retaken the CLAST during this time. (This is not surprising in light of the fact that many students were writing the CLAST simply to lock in current passing scores.)

This table also shows performance for all students who had completed eighteen or more college credits; students who had completed at least eighteen college credits and passed ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113 with a grade of "C" or better; and students who had earned eighteen college credits, but had not taken or had not passed the four required courses. Since the number of students who had earned eighteen college credits is only a little smaller than the total number of students, it appears that few students wrote the CLAST at a very early point in their matriculation. What is more interesting is that the number of students who had completed the required courses is only 28% of the total number of the examinees. These students, however, had a much higher first-time pass rate of 62.5%, with an additional 16.5% of the students passing upon retake, yielding an eventual pass rate of 79.0%. By comparison, those students who had not completed the curriculum had a first-time pass rate of 33.4%, with an additional 15.4% passing upon retake, yielding an eventual pass rate of 48.8%.

In 1988, Einspruch followed Fall Term 1986 first-time examinees over the next year. Of the 980 students who wrote the CLAST during that administration, 72% passed all four parts of the examination. Based on the

M-DCC CLAST research file, Einspruch showed that 89% of the original 980 examinees had passed the CLAST within the following year. By the time of his study CLAST scores had become available through a statewide on-line system, and this system was used to find scores for students who had retaken the CLAST at other institutions and not had their scores sent to M-DCC. When data from this system were included, the eventual pass rate was shown to be 91% after one year. Retake performance was related to the number of subtests initially failed. Of those who had failed one subtest, 95% had passed all four subtests one year later, compared to 60% of those who had failed two subtests.

In an earlier study, Belcher (1986) followed Fall Term 1984 first-time examinees through Fall Term 1985. Of her cohort of 997 examinees, 246 (24.7%) failed the CLAST. Based on the M-DCC Test Master Record file, Belcher found that the successful performance of some retake examinees raised the original 75% pass rate to 84%. Since she suspected that some students retook the CLAST at another institution and did not have their scores sent to M-DCC, a survey was sent to those examinees who had failed the test on their first attempt (the state on-line score file was not available at this time). When the results of the survey were included, the eventual pass rate was shown to be 86%. Belcher demonstrated that retaking and passing the exam was related to the number of subtests originally failed. Of those students who had initially failed one subtest, 73% had passed all four subtests one year later, compared to only 29% of those who had initially failed two subtests.

In summary, while the eventual one year pass rate for 1984 examinees was 86%, and for 1986 examinees was 89%, for the Fall Term of 1989 the eventual pass rate dropped to 56.6% under the higher passing scores.

Impact of the Number of Subtests Initially Failed on Eventual Retake Performance

As the following table shows, the higher passing scores have also increased the proportion of examinees failing multiple subtests.

Study	Passing Scores	Number Failed	Percent Failing One Subtest	Percent Failing Two Subtests	Percent Failing Three Subtests	Percent Failing Four Subtests
Belcher (1986)	1984	246	65.0	25.2	7.7	2.0
Einspruch (1988)	1986	278	57.9	29.5	9.7	2.9
Present Study	1989	285*	51.8	30.5	12.5	5.2
Present Study	1991	479*	34.4	26.3	20.2	19.1

*Based on examinees who had passed required courses.

Table 2 shows performance one year later for those Fall Term 1989 students who had initially failed the CLAST. Of the total group of 1,594 failers, 638 (40.1%) failed one subtest, 407 (25.5%) failed two subtests, 346 (21.7%) failed three subtests, and 202 (12.7%) failed all four subtests. Of those examinees who had failed one subtest, 49.3% had passed within the next year, compared to 19.6% of those who had failed two subtests, 4.6% of those who had failed three subtests, and 2.5% of those who had failed all four subtests.

Table 2 also shows that of the 285 students who had completed the required curriculum, yet initially failed the CLAST, 172 (60.3%) had failed one subtest, 70 (24.6%) had failed two subtests, 36 (12.6%) had failed three subtests, and 7 (2.5%) had failed all four subtests. Of these students who had initially failed one subtest, 57.6% had passed the CLAST one year later, compared to 31.4% who had failed two subtests, 13.9% who had failed three subtests, and none who had failed four subtests.

The number of subtests initially failed continues to relate to retake performance. Einspruch (1988) reported that 95% of those who initially failed one subtest passed within the next year, compared to 60% of those who initially failed two subtests. Belcher (1986) reported that 73% of those who had initially failed one subtest passed within the next year, compared to 29% of those who had initially failed two subtests.

Accuracy of Earlier Predictions of Eventual Pass Rates For Fall Term 1989 Examinees

The issue of retake performance and eventual pass rates was raised during the debates prior to the implementation of the 1989 passing scores. These debates led to compromise passing scores being implemented in 1989 and the "original" 1989 passing scores being delayed until 1990 (then again delayed until 1991). While state level analyses showed a statewide CLAST pass rate after one year of 93% for Fall Term 1986 first-time examinees (Fisher, 1989), Losak and Einspruch (1989) contended that this figure, which was based on 1986 passing scores, did not show the impact of the 1989 passing scores. They suggested that, given the higher passing scores, more students would fail the exam on their first attempt, and more students would fail more than one subtest (those who fail two or more subtests are the students less likely to retake the CLAST, and less likely to pass the CLAST upon retake). Using M-DCC data from the Fall Term 1986 administration, it was calculated that had the "original" 1989 passing scores been in effect, the initial pass rate would have been 29%, and the eventual pass rate would have been 33% (not the 72% and 89% presented under the 1986 passing scores). Clearly, the imposition of higher passing scores would have hindered the educational progress of a large number of these students.

While Fisher's estimate was optimistic since it assumed no change in performance with increased passing scores, Losak and Einspruch's estimate was pessimistic since it assumed everyone would perform like the 1986 failers. Therefore, Belcher (1989) examined eventual pass rates using two different sets of assumptions. Her "best case" scenario was based on the assumption that students would continue to retake and pass the CLAST at the same rate that they did under the 1986 cutscores. This is a best case scenario since it fails to account for the additional "leap" that students already failing under the 1986 cutscores must make to reach the increased cutscores. Her "worst case" scenario (like Losak & Einspruch's) was based on the assumption that all students would retake and pass the increased cutscores at the same rate that current 1986 failers are. This scenario fails to account for first-time test takers who passed under the 1986 cutscores (and thus did not need to retake), but who would not pass under

the increased cutscores. Belcher found that for all Fall Term 1988 first-time examinees the best eventual pass-all-four rates that could be expected were 74% under 1986 passing scores, 57% under "modified" 1989 passing scores, and 47% under the "original" 1989 passing scores. Her "worst case" estimates for this group were 74%, 40%, and 22%. She also considered only those Fall Term 1988 first-time examinees who had passed ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113 with a grade of "C" or better. Her "best case" estimates of eventual pass-all-four rates for this group were 91%, 81%, and 75%. Her "worst case" estimates for this group were 91%, 53%, and 32%. In this report she also showed that extended time was advantageous for retake examinees who were allowed double time beginning March, 1988.

Students are performing more like "best case" rather than "worst case" predictions. The predictions of Losak and Einspruch (1989) about the number of subtests failed given higher passing scores were on target: based on the Fall Term 1986 cohort and the "original 1989" passing scores, they predicted that 36.4% would have failed one subtest, 29.4% would have failed two subtests, 20.4% would have failed three subtests, and 13.8% would have failed four subtests (cf. the Present Study (1991 passing scores) in the table on page 7).

Predicted CLAST Performance Given 1991 Passing Scores

Table 3 shows the hypothetical performance one year later for Fall Term 1989 first-time examinees. This table is divided into two parts. The first part is based on the assumption that all students would retake and pass the higher passing scores at the same rate as current failers, and was calculated by holding both first-time and retake examinees to the 1991 passing scores. The calculation does not account for those students who did not retake the examination because they passed the 1989 passing scores, even though they would have failed the 1991 passing scores. For example, of the 934 students who retook the CLAST, 145 (5.5%) would have passed under the 1991 passing scores. Added to the 623 (23.0%) first-time examinees who would have passed, the eventual pass rate for all examinees was predicted to be 28.5%. Similarly, this "worst case" estimate was predicted to be 23.1% for examinees who had earned at least eighteen credits but had not passed

the required courses, and 43.6% for examinees who had completed at least eighteen credits and had also passed the required courses.

The second half of Table 3 is based on the assumption that students will retake and pass the CLAST at the same rate that they do under the 1989 passing scores. This "best case" scenario does not account for the additional gain students already failing under the 1989 passing scores will have to make in order to pass the 1991 passing scores. As an example of the way the estimates in this case were computed, it is assumed that of the 2,090 examinees who would have failed on the first attempt under the 1991 passing scores, 545 (26.1%) of them would retake and pass within one year (this percentage is obtained from the bottom of Table 2). Adding 545 to the 623 first-time passers yields a total of 1,168 examinees passing after one year, or a predicted 43.1% pass rate. Similarly, this "best case" estimate was predicted to be 36.9% for examinees who had earned at least eighteen credits but had not passed the required courses, and 64.9% for examinees who had completed at least eighteen credits and had also passed the required courses.

Conclusion

Clearly, the increase from 1986 to "modified" 1989 passing scores has had an impact on the pass-all-four rate after one year's time. Belcher (1986) found an 84% pass rate after one year for Fall Term 1984 examinees (86% when the results of a survey were included), and Einspruch (1988) found a 89% pass rate for Fall Term 1986 examinees (91% when data from the state on-line score system were included). For all Fall Term 1989 first-time A.A. examinees, the pass rate after one year was 56.6%. For those examinees who had passed the four required courses with a grade of "C" or better, the pass rate after one year was 79.0%. Had these students been required to meet 1991 passing scores, the pass rates after one year were projected to have been between 28.5% and 43.1% for all examinees, and between 43.6% and 64.9% for examinees who had passed the required courses.

As an additional note, the reader is reminded that predictions of CLAST pass rates are based on current levels of student achievement, and assume constant levels of performance. Interestingly, if one applies the

1989 passing scores to M-DCC students who had passed required courses, one shows an increase in the first-time pass-all-four rate over the last five years. Appendix A illustrates that the first-time pass-all-four rate would have been 47% for 1985-86 first-time examinees who had passed required courses, had they been held to 1989 passing scores. For 1989-90 examinees who had completed required courses, the first-time pass-all-four rate was 59%. This represents a 26% increase in the pass rate. Appendix A also shows that this increase is due to improved performance on the reading subtest, as performance has dropped on the mathematics subtest and remained stable on the English Language Skills and Essay subtests.

In conclusion, as students are held to higher passing scores, eventual pass rates drop substantially. Educators are accustomed to hearing that statewide 90% - 95% of all CLAST examinees pass all four subtests within one year (based on 1986 passing scores). In a recent memo, Fisher (1990) reported that of the statewide cohort of all first-time examinees (N=18,814) who wrote during Fall Term 1989, 65.2% passed on their first attempt and 79.3% had passed after one year. The corresponding pass rates at M-DCC were 41.3% and 56.6%. Given that some students may take more than one year to retake and pass, and that some (about 2% for M-DCC students) pass at other institutions, the most optimistic pass rate we may expect for those M-DCC students who have passed required courses (given no improvement in student performance) is 81% under current 1989 passing scores, and 67% under scheduled 1991 passing scores.

Table 1

Performance of Fall Term 1989 First-Time A.A. Examinees
After Two More Administrations of the CLAST
Based on 1989 Passing Scores

		Passed First Time		Retook and Passed		Retook and Failed		Did Not Retake	
Subtest	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All examinees	2,713	1,119	41.3	416	15.3	518	19.1	660	24.3
Examinees with 18 credits	2,637	1,102	41.8	415	15.7	506	19.2	614	23.3
Examinees with the curriculum*	760	475	62.5	126	16.5	89	11.8	70	9.2
Examinees without the curriculum**	1,877	627	33.4	289	15.4	417	22.2	544	29.0

*Based on examinees with 18 college-level credits who earned a grade of "C" or better in ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113.

**Based on examinees with 18 college-level credits who did not earn a grade of "C" or better in ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113.

Table 2

Current CLAST Status and Subtests Initially Failed
Fall Term 1989 First-Time CLAST Examinees
1989 Passing Scores

Subtest	Number	Retook Passed		Retook and Failed		Did Not Retake	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Failed 1 Subtest							
Reading							
All examinees	88	61	69.3	12	13.6	15	17.1
Examinees with 18 credits	88	61	69.3	12	13.6	15	17.1
Examinees with curriculum*	35	26	74.3	7	20.0	2	5.7
Examinees without curriculum**	53	35	66.0	5	9.5	13	24.5
English Language Skills							
All examinees	202	107	53.0	38	18.8	57	28.2
Examinees with 18 credits	201	107	53.2	38	18.9	56	27.9
Examinees with curriculum*	77	44	57.1	17	22.1	16	20.8
Examinees without curriculum**	124	63	50.8	21	16.9	40	32.3
Mathematics							
All examinees	274	109	39.8	43	15.7	122	44.5
Examinees with 18 credits	265	108	40.8	43	16.2	114	43.0
Examinees with curriculum*	36	17	47.2	7	19.5	12	33.3
Examinees without curriculum**	229	91	39.7	36	15.7	102	44.6
Essay							
All examinees	74	38	51.3	7	9.5	29	39.2
Examinees with 18 credits	73	38	52.0	7	9.6	28	38.4
Examinees with curriculum*	24	12	50.0	2	8.3	10	41.7
Examinees without curriculum**	49	26	53.1	5	10.2	18	36.7
Subtotal							
All examinees	638	315	49.3	100	15.7	223	35.0
Examinees with 18 credits	627	314	50.1	100	15.9	213	34.0
Examinees with curriculum*	172	99	57.6	33	19.2	40	23.2
Examinees without curriculum**	455	215	47.3	67	14.7	173	38.0
Failed 2 Subtests							
Reading/English Language Skills							
All examinees	81	24	29.6	32	39.5	25	30.9
Examinees with 18 credits	81	24	29.6	32	39.5	25	30.9
Examinees with curriculum*	17	7	41.2	7	41.2	3	17.6
Examinees without curriculum**	64	17	26.6	25	39.0	22	34.4
Reading/Mathematics							
All examinees	85	13	15.2	36	42.4	36	42.4
Examinees with 18 credits	81	13	16.0	34	42.0	34	42.0
Examinees with curriculum*	9	1	11.2	4	44.4	4	44.4
Examinees without curriculum**	72	12	16.6	30	41.7	30	41.7
Reading/Essay							
All examinees	31	9	29.0	16	51.6	6	19.4
Examinees with 18 credits	31	9	29.0	16	51.6	6	19.4
Examinees with curriculum*	4	3	75.0	1	25.0	0	0.0
Examinees without curriculum**	27	6	22.2	15	55.6	6	22.2
English Language Skills/Mathematics							
All examinees	135	21	15.6	49	36.3	65	48.1
Examinees with 18 credits	131	21	16.0	49	37.4	61	46.6
Examinees with curriculum*	17	5	29.4	8	47.1	4	23.5
Examinees without curriculum**	114	16	14.0	41	36.0	57	50.0
English Language Skills/Essay							
All examinees	50	9	18.0	25	50.0	16	32.0
Examinees with 18 credits	50	9	18.0	25	50.0	16	32.0
Examinees with curriculum*	20	6	30.0	12	60.0	2	10.0
Examinees without curriculum**	30	3	10.0	13	43.3	14	46.7
Mathematics/Essay							
All examinees	26	4	15.4	12	46.1	10	38.5
Examinees with 18 credits	25	4	16.0	12	48.0	9	36.0
Examinees with curriculum*	3	0	0.0	2	66.7	1	33.3
Examinees without curriculum**	22	4	18.2	10	45.5	8	36.3
Subtotal							
All examinees	408	80	19.6	170	41.7	158	38.7
Examinees with 18 credits	399	80	20.1	168	42.1	151	37.8
Examinees with curriculum*	70	22	31.4	34	48.6	14	20.0
Examinees without curriculum**	329	58	17.6	134	40.7	137	41.7

*Based on examinees with 18 college-level credits who earned a grade of "C" or better in ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113.

**Based on examinees with 18 college-level credits who did not earn a grade of "C" or better in ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113.

Table 2
(continued)

Current CLAST Status and Subtests Initially Failed
Fall Term 1989 First-Time CLAST Examinees
1989 Passing Scores

Subtest	Number	Retook Passed		Retook and Failed		Did Not Retake	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Failed 3 Subtests							
Reading/English Language Skills/Mathematics							
All examinees	186	7	3.8	84	45.1	95	51.1
Examinees with 18 credits	176	7	4.0	82	46.6	87	49.4
Examinees with curriculum*	18	2	11.1	11	61.1	5	27.8
Examinees without curriculum**	158	5	3.2	71	44.9	82	51.9
Reading/Language Skills/Essay							
All examinees	71	6	8.5	38	53.5	27	38.0
Examinees with 18 credits	68	6	8.8	38	55.9	24	35.3
Examinees with curriculum*	7	2	28.6	4	57.1	1	14.3
Examinees without curriculum**	61	4	6.6	34	55.7	23	37.7
Reading/Mathematics/Essay							
All examinees	37	3	8.1	16	43.2	18	48.7
Examinees with 18 credits	37	3	8.1	16	43.2	18	48.7
Examinees with curriculum*	3	1	33.3	0	0.0	2	66.7
Examinees without curriculum**	34	2	5.8	16	47.1	16	47.1
English Language Skills/Mathematics/Essay							
All examinees	52	0	0.0	23	44.2	29	55.8
Examinees with 18 credits	48	0	0.0	21	43.8	27	56.2
Examinees with curriculum*	8	0	0.0	3	37.5	5	62.5
Examinees without curriculum**	40	0	0.0	18	45.0	22	55.0
Subtotal							
All examinees	346	16	4.6	161	46.5	169	48.9
Examinees with 18 credits	329	16	4.9	157	47.7	156	47.4
Examinees with curriculum*	36	5	13.9	18	50.0	13	36.1
Examinees without curriculum**	293	11	3.8	139	47.4	143	48.8
Failed 4 Subtests							
Reading/English Language Skills/Mathematics/Essay							
All examinees	202	5	2.5	87	43.1	110	54.4
Examinees with 18 credits	180	5	2.8	81	45.0	94	52.2
Examinees with curriculum*	7	0	0.0	4	57.1	3	42.9
Examinees without curriculum**	173	5	2.9	77	44.5	91	52.6
TOTALS							
All examinees	1,594	416	26.1	518	32.5	660	41.4
Examinees with 18 credits	1,535	415	27.0	506	33.0	614	40.0
Examinees with curriculum*	285	126	44.2	89	31.2	70	24.6
Examinees without curriculum**	1,250	289	23.1	417	33.4	544	43.5

*Based on examinees with 18 college-level credits who earned a grade of "C" or better in ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113.

**Based on examinees with 18 college-level credits who did not earn a grade of "C" or better in ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113.

Table 3

Performance of Fall Term 1989 First-Time A.A. Examinees
After Two More Administrations of the CLAST Based on 1991 Passing Scores
Assuming Retake Examinees Will Perform as They Do Under 1989 Passing Scores

		Passed First Time		Retook and Passed		Retook and Failed		Did Not Retake	
Subtest	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All examinees	2,713	623	23.0	148	5.5	786	29.0	1,156	42.5
Examinees with 18 credits	2,637	616	23.4	147	5.6	774	29.3	1,100	41.7
Examinees with the curriculum*	760	281	37.0	50	6.6	165	21.7	264	34.7
Examinees without the curriculum**	1,877	335	17.9	97	5.2	609	32.4	836	44.5

Performance of Fall, 1989 First-Time A.A. Examinees
After Two More Administrations of the CLAST
Based on 1991 Passing Scores
Assuming Retake Examinees Will Perform as They Do Under 1986 Passing Scores

		Passed First Time		Retook and Passed		Retook and Failed		Did Not Retake	
Subtest	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All examinees	2,713	623	23.0	546	20.1	679	25.7	865	31.8
Examinees with 18 credits	2,637	616	23.4	546	20.7	667	25.3	808	30.6
Examinees with the curriculum*	760	281	37.0	212	27.9	149	19.6	118	15.5
Examinees without the curriculum**	1,877	335	17.9	356	19.0	515	27.4	671	35.7

*Based on examinees with 18 college-level credits who earned a grade of "C" or better in ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113.

**Based on examinees with 18 college-level credits who did not earn a grade of "C" or better in ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2301, and MGF 1113.

References

Belcher, M. J. (1986). A longitudinal follow-up of students who failed the CLAST in fall, 1984 (Research Report No. 86-20). Miami, FL: Miami-Dade Community College, Office of Institutional Research.

Belcher, M. (1989). CLAST passing rates after one year under the new cutscores and extended time for retakes (Research Report No. 89-18R). Miami, FL: Miami-Dade Community College, Office of Institutional Research.

Einspruch, E. (1988). A longitudinal follow-up of Miami-Dade students who failed the CLAST in fall, 1986 (Research Report 88-03). Miami, FL: Miami-Dade Community College, Office of Institutional Research.

Fisher, T. (1989, March 20). Memorandum and attachments to presidents, academic vice presidents, and deans of community colleges, state universities, and independent colleges and universities with reference to information on CLAST, pp 1-22.

Fisher, T. (1990, October 2). Memorandum and attachments to presidents, academic vice presidents, and deans of community colleges, state universities, and independent colleges and universities with reference to information on CLAST, pp 1-4.

Losak, J. & Einspruch, E. (1989). An examination of issues related to the 1989 CLAST standards (Position Paper). Miami, FL: Miami-Dade Community College, Office of Institutional Research.

August 13, 1990

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dr. John Losak

FROM: Eric Einspruch

SUBJECT: CLAST PASS RATES FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS FOR THOSE WHO HAD COMPLETED CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS, GIVEN CURRENT (1989) STANDARDS

Per your request, an analysis of CLAST performance was conducted in an effort to determine if student performance has improved over time. The following table details the performance of first-time A.A. examinees who had completed curriculum requirements, grouped by year for the last five years. The current (1989) standards were applied to all years, so that changes in performance would not be confounded by changes in standards (even though these students were required to meet different standards that were in effect when they wrote the exam). Given this constant measure (i.e., 1989 standards), the CLAST pass-all-four rate for first time examinees who had passed required courses with a grade of "C" or better has increased 26% over the last five years.

The attached table shows that for those students passing MGF1113 with a grade of "C" or better, performance on the mathematics subtest has shown a small decline over the last three years. For those students passing ENC1101, ENC1102, and ENC2301 with a grade of "C" or better, performance on the English language skills and essay subtests has shown little change over the last five years. However, performance for these students has varied on the reading subtest, with a steady drop in the pass rate from 1985 to 1987, followed by a sharp jump in the pass rate during 1988 and 1989. Finally, the pass-all-four rate for students passing all four of the above courses remained remarkably stable until 1988, when it showed a sharp increase (concomitant with performance on the reading subtest). The pass-all-four rate increased again in 1989.

EE:ab

Attachment

CLAST Performance 1985 - 1989
First-Time A.A. Examinees
Who Had Passed Required Courses With a "C" or Better
Using 1989 Standards

Year	Number Passing MGF1113	Percent Passing CLAST Mathematics	Number Passing ENC1101 ENC1102 ENC2301	Percent Passing CLAST Reading	Number Passing ENC1101 ENC1102 ENC2301	Percent Passing CLAST ELS	Number Passing ENC1101 ENC1102 ENC2301	Percent Passing CLAST Essay	Number Passing MGF1113 ENC1101 ENC1102 ENC2301	Percent Passing All Four CLAST Subtests
1985-86	2,725	87	2,271	62	2,271	68	2,271	90	2,003	47
1986-87	2,553	87	2,332	59	2,332	67	2,332	89	2,028	46
1987-88	3,136	88	2,951	57	2,951	69	2,951	86	2,359	47
1988-89	3,671	86	3,417	69	3,417	71	3,417	89	2,322	56
1989-90	3,478	82	3,074	77	3,074	70	3,074	91	1,834	59

EE:ab

ERIC Clearinghouse for
Junior Colleges
MAR 29 1991